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The Director of Central Intelligence
Washington, D.C. 20505

National Intelligence Council

NIC #03305-84
6 June 1984

NOTE FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

FROM:

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SUBJECT: Soviet Activity in the South China Sea

1. Further to our conversation this noon, here is background information that you might use in introducing this subject at dinner tonight.

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- 12-15 April: USSR-SRV joint amphibious exercise south of Haiphong. Soviet carrier Minsk and escorts participated, including Minsk operations in Gulf of Tonkin.
- Soviet warships returned to home port after exercise.
- 7-8 May: Soviet cruiser and SIGINT ship commence operations near Hainan Island and PRC South Fleet Headquarters.
- Cruiser returned to Vladivostok after a few days and the SIGINT ship took station near Yulin, Hainan, where it remained until 24-25 May.
- 13 May: first Soviet naval aviation reconnaissance flight from Cam Ranh since 12-15 April exercises. Flight appeared targeted against USS Midway task force, enroute Subic from Indian Ocean.
- 15-16 May: Soviet reconnaissance flights targeted against Paracel Islands and PRC naval activities in the same area. (No Soviet reconnaissance flights were detected against PRC units that earlier operated in area of the Spratley Islands.)
- Early June: Soviet SIGINT ship returned to station near Hainan Island.
- 4 June: Soviet naval reconnaissance flights target USS Harry Harding, operating near Paracel Islands.
- Early June: No recent Soviet warship activity detected in South China Sea; pace of operations described as slow.

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Attached are NID articles including some good maps, covering most of the above activities.



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